

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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ER-60-7204/a

21 SEP 1960

NASA REVIEW COMPLETED

Doctor T. Keith Glennan  
Administrator  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Doctor Glennan:

With reference to your letter of 13 September 1960 requesting advice or suggestions which this Agency might feel desirable to provide concerning Project MERCURY, I find that representatives of your Security Office have had some informal exploratory discussions with representatives of our Counter Intelligence Staff on this subject.

We will be pleased to render every possible assistance within our capabilities on this Project; and to this end, I would like to suggest that your Security Officers extend their discussions with our Counter Intelligence Staff to permit us to provide any advice which we may be able to give.

[redacted] our Counter Intelligence Liaison Officer, will be available for contact by your representatives, if you agree. He can be reached on [redacted]

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles  
19 sept Director

prepared by:

DDP [redacted]

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Signature Recommended:

[redacted]  
Acting Chief, CI Staff

[redacted]  
Deputy Director (Plans)

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE NASA 1960)

ER

0-4824

19 SEP 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA:

Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT:

Letter from Dr. T. Keith Glennan,  
Administrator, NASA, dated 13 September  
1960, requesting assistance re Project  
MERCURY

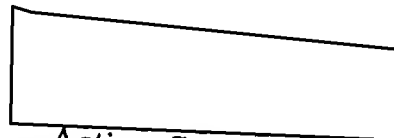
1. Attached for the Director's approval and signature is a suggested reply to subject letter.
2. Inasmuch as the Counter Intelligence Staff maintains liaison with the Security Office of NASA and has already held some exploratory conferences on this subject, our reply suggests a continuation of these conferences to determine what assistance we may be able to render NASA.
3. For your information, members of this Staff have had two conferences with NASA Security Officers, the last one on 16 September, to discuss possible security hazards to the various tracking sites which are being set up under Project MERCURY. It is our understanding that Dr. Glennan's letter was sparked by the concern of his Security Officer that he was not fully appreciative of such hazards. While we have, to date, no information of our own concerning hostile activity toward the projected sites, various State reports which we are assembling discuss political activity with regard to the negotiations with the countries in which the sites will be installed. [redacted] that the XIII National Congress of the Mexican Communist Party issued a document dated 31 March 1960 setting forth a resolution "to denounce before the national and international public opinion and particularly that of Latin America the construction by the Government of the United States of a 'base for launching guided missiles' (Plan Mercury) in the

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proximity of the port of Guaymas, Sonora, which in reality is a cloaked military base of the US Army."

4. In the interests of preventing any embarrassment to the Security Officers of NASA with whom we have been in contact, we have advised them of the gist of our proposed reply to Dr. Glennan.



Acting Chief  
Counter Intelligence Staff

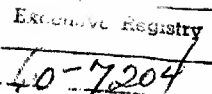
Attachment - as stated

cc: DDCI

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**NATIONAL  
AERONAUTICS  
AND SPACE  
ADMINISTRATION**



**OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR**  
1520 H STREET NORTHWEST  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.  
TELEPHONE: EXECUTIVE 3-3260 TWX: WA 755

IN REPLY REFER TO

Mr. Allen W. Dulles  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington 25, D. C.

SEP 13 1960

Dear Mr. Dulles:

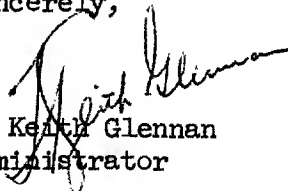
As I believe you know, NASA has been faced with some evidence of political hostility directed against Project Mercury stations overseas, particularly in Zanzibar and Mexico. This hostility apparently stems in good part from an organized Communist effort to exploit local sensitivities to military or cold war activities. In concert with the Department of State (S/AE), certain counter-measures have been taken and the responsible NASA offices are planning the usual security safeguards relating to physical protection of the stations, control of visitors, etc.

Because of the character of the Communist opposition, I feel that careful thought should be given by the interested agencies to whatever additional safeguards may be appropriate. In this connection, I note that all information on this problem which has been provided to us by the Department of State has also been provided to the Central Intelligence Agency. In addition, certain reports of the Federal Bureau of Investigation made available to us have been made available to the Department of State and CIA as well.

With due regard to the extreme caution required in connection with any activities at the Mercury sites, so that the posture of the project as a scientific one may be protected, NASA will welcome any advice or suggestions which the Central Intelligence Agency may feel desirable to provide.

The locations of Project Mercury stations are set forth on an enclosed list.

Sincerely,

  
T. Keith Glennan  
Administrator

Enclosure

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S/AE, Dept. of State

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LIST OF PROJECT MERCURY STATIONS ABROAD

Australia

Woomera

Perth

Bermuda

Canton Island

Mexico

Guaymas

Nigeria

Kano

Spain

Gran Canaria

Zanzibar